



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UPDATE: PROJECT CEASEFIRE
FEDERAL JURY CONVICTS FELON
FOR ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF FIREARM

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Kansas City, Mo., man was convicted by a federal jury today for being a felon in possession of a firearm.

Geoffrey L. Rashaw, 41, of Kansas City, Mo., was found guilty by a federal jury of all three counts of an indictment charging various firearms violations.

Following the presentation of evidence at **Rashaw's** trial, Graves said, the federal jury in U.S. District Court in Kansas City deliberated for about one hour before returning the guilty verdict to U.S. District Judge Gary A. Fenner, ending a trial that began Jan. 7, 2004.

The federal jury found **Rashaw** guilty of being a felon in possession of a Westernfield 12 gauge shotgun and a Iver Johnson 12 gauge sawed-off shotgun on March 5 and March 6, 2002, and a Norinco MAK-90 Sporter rifle on May 12, 2003. In possessing the sawed-off shotgun, the jury also found **Rashaw** guilty of possessing a firearm that was not registered to him in the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Rashaw** has a 1989 criminal felony conviction for unlawful use of a weapon.

As a result of today's federal jury conviction, **Rashaw** may be subject to a maximum sentence of up 30 years in federal prison. His sentence will be determined according to the United States Sentencing Guidelines. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Linda L. Sybrant. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco,

Firearms and Explosives.

Project Ceasefire

Project Ceasefire, launched in October 1999, is a cooperative initiative by federal and local law enforcement and the Kansas City Crime Commission that targets for federal prosecution persons who unlawfully use or possess firearms. Project Ceasefire has resulted in federal charges against 524 defendants, and convictions against 444 of those defendants, including 417 who pleaded guilty and 27 who were convicted at trial. A total of 390 of the 444 convicted defendants have been sentenced, and 54 currently await sentencing hearings.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow